



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, May 6, 2015
Senior Center
DRAFT - MINUTES

Members Present: Sara Anderson (staff), Sarah Delia (staff), Maggie Ferron, Jordana Frost, Cindy Guerreri, Pat Michalak, Pat Schneider, Mary Sposito, Judy Stoughton, Kathy Ward, Lisa Young, and Ana Zeller.

Guests: Merrill Gay, Marie Hodrinsky

Regrets: Jane Goldman

WHAT	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME
CALL TO ORDER	Sara Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approval of the Minutes of April 1, 2015 meeting.	<i>The April 1, 2015 Minutes were approved by consensus.</i>
SPECIAL GUEST	<p>Merrill Gay, Executive Director, Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriations Committee restored 90-95% of funds for the Community Plans that were previously cut. • Lower sales tax is being considered, but the tax covers more services. • Income tax is more progressive; those with higher incomes will pay progressively more tax. • Both Democrats and Republicans restored cuts; the Democrats restored the Early Childhood cuts. • The Democrats control the Appropriations and Finance Committees. The revised budget now goes to the floor for a vote and then the Governor will sign the budget into law. • The budget may not pass with only the Democrats in favor of the spending package; they will need bipartisan votes to pass it. • The Governor says the tax package is too high. • It is really important to thank legislators for restoring the cuts for Early Childhood programs. • Talk to legislators in other towns and encourage them to support the Early Childhood initiatives. • Text 67076 to the Alliance, send in your name and zip code and they will inform you when communicating with legislators is key. • Merrill also covered the advocacy and lobbying 	<i>MAC should send a thank you note to Rep. Linda Orange.</i>

	<p>rules; when less than \$2,000 is spent on advocacy and lobbying it is not counted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be some extra money for School Readiness Full Time slot teacher salaries. • The OEC has 386 programs, of which 62% will qualify. • HB 7020 regarding QSM refers to teachers with more than 20 years of experience who can be grandfathered into the QSM system, without the new education requirements. • The Alliance has a full time Public Relations person and will help organizations on how to get press coverage for events or issues. • It may also be helpful to connect with other statewide organizations including CT Voices for Children, the CT Association of Human Services, CT Parent Power and All Our Kin. • The Alliance may also be able to provide curated content for the new MAC website. 	
STAFF REPORT	<p>Staff Report: Sara Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Anderson announced that she will resign in July. She and her family will be moving to Utah. <p>Budget Report: Mary Sposito</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a 5% rescission from the state portion of the Graustein funds for this fiscal year. There was \$400 taken from the fiscal sponsor fee, \$400 taken from the food budget, \$100 taken from the communications line. • The expenditures as of May 6 were \$14,035. The remaining balance is \$7870. • There is expected to be \$0 for carry in for the next fiscal year. <p>Town Budget: Pat Schneider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council approved the proposed budget. • There were some Service improvements in the Human Services budget; the Town will pay for the monitoring of the SR sites and more funds were added for printing, supplies, and computer software including Scorecard. Money for food and refreshments, programs and program supplies were put in the budget. Funds for the maintenance of the new website were not included. These additional funds totaled \$5,537. • Money for staff hours for the Early Childhood Services Coordinator and Administrative Assistant were not put into the budget. 	

	Quality Enhancement Grant: Sara Anderson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Quality Enhancement Grant will provide \$270 for the Home Care Provider Dinners and \$50 reimbursement for CPR/First Aid Training. There was one suggestion that in another district the Superintendent had dessert with the Home Care Providers. 	
NEW BUSINESS	School Readiness Center Selection: Sara Anderson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sara asked for approval of the three SR sites that have applied for funding for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Community Self-Assessment Tool: Cindy Guerreri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cindy led the group in filling out the Community Self-Assessment Tool, one of the requirements of the Graustein Grant, as well as a good indicator of areas MAC needs to work on in the future. 	<i>The three Centers who applied were approved by the membership.</i>
CLOSING	Plus/Delta or Pros and Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short survey was handed out and people were asked to respond about the meeting in general and asked to give specific feedback. 	
ADJOURN	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.</p> <p>Next Executive Council Meeting, Thursday, May 14, 2015, 10:00am – 11:30am, Conference Room B.</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting, Wednesday, June 3, 2015, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Council Chambers, Town Hall</p> <p>Agenda topics: Please send to Sara Anderson at AndersonSD@mansfieldct.org</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Sarah Delia Assistant to the Early Childhood Services Coordinator</p>	

All Mansfield Children ages birth through 8 years old are healthy, successful learners, and their families are connected to the community.